

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-32 are currently pending. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, and 10 have been amended; Claims 5, 6, 11, and 12 have been canceled without prejudice; and Claims 13-32 have been added by the present amendment. The changes and additions to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, regarding the phrase “without making a luminance of the light exiting from the pixels of the image display device conform to a predetermined profile throughout the image display device;”¹ Claims 1-4 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,260,797 to Muraji et al. (hereinafter “the ‘797 patent”); and Claims 5, 6, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘797 patent in view of Japanese Patent No. JP 11-113019 to Hideo (hereinafter “the ‘019 patent”).

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claims 1 and 7. The “predetermined profile” limitation has been deleted from those claims.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an image display apparatus, comprising: (1) an image processor for outputting image data including plural color component data; (2) a gain corrector for correcting chromaticity levels of the image data output by the image processor; and (3) an image display device having pixels each emitting a plurality of colored light rays for forming a color image in accordance with the corrected image data corrected by the gain corrector. Further, the gain corrector corrects *a respective level of at least one of the plural*

¹ Applicant notes that the Office Action fails to specifically identify which section of 35 U.S.C. § 112 the claims are rejected under. However, in a telephone discussion on September 4, 2003, the Examiner indicated that the rejection should be under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

color component data applied to each respective pixel in the image display device based on measured luminance levels at each respective pixel such that, when image data representing an image of a uniform color are output from the image processor, a difference in chromaticity of light exiting from pixels due to characteristic differences between the pixels of the image display device is reduced. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.²

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1, the '797 patent is directed to an image display device incorporating a circuit for correcting luminance non-uniformity. As shown in Figures 2(a)-2(c) and Figures 7(a)-7(e), the '797 patent discloses a system that corrects for the reduced illumination in the peripheral parts of the screen as compared with the central part of the screen. As shown in Figure 7(b), the intensity of illumination on the screen 5 varies according to $\cos^4 \omega$, wherein ω is the image angle of the projection lens to the screen.³ Thus, as shown in Figures 7(b)-7(e), the red and blue signals are adjusted such that the luminance of the corresponding red and blue image components conform to a predetermined green image component profile, which is determined *across the horizontal portion of the image display device at the vertical centerline*. Analogous adjustments are made in the vertical direction based on the green image components obtained across a vertical slice of the image display device at the horizontal centerline. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the '797 patent fails to disclose *a gain corrector that corrects a respective level of at least one plural color component data applied to each respective pixel in the image display device based on measured luminance levels at each respective pixel* such that, when image data representing an image of a uniform color are output from the image processor, a difference in chromaticity of light exiting from the pixels due to characteristic differences between the pixels of the image display device is reduced, as recited in Claim 1. Rather, the '797 patent

² See Figure 3B and page 9, line 12 to page 10, line 14 of the specification.

³ See '797 patent, column 1, lines 56-62, and column 3, lines 52-67.

discloses that the luminance is measured only on the horizontal and vertical centerlines.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 1 (and dependent Claims 2-4) as anticipated by the '797 patent is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

Claim 7 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1. Moreover, Claim 7 has been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 1.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 7 (and dependent Claims 8-10) as anticipated by the '797 patent is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 7.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of dependent Claims 5, 6, 11, and 12, is rendered moot by the present cancellation of those claims.

The present amendment also sets forth new Claims 13-32 for examination on the merits. New independent Claim 13 is directed to an image display apparatus analogous to the image display apparatus recited in original Claim 1, but further recites that the pixels are segmented into a plurality of triangular areas. New independent Claim 17 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in new Claim 13. New independent Claim 21 is directed to an image display apparatus analogous to the image display apparatus recited in original Claim 1, but recites that the gain corrector corrects the color component data without making luminance of the light exiting the pixels conform to *a desired smooth luminance profile* throughout the image display device. Further, new independent Claim 27 is directed to an image display method, and recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in new Claim 21. Thus, Applicant submits that new Claims 13-32 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.⁴ Moreover, Applicant submits that new Claims 13-20 patentably define over the '797 and '014 patents, which fail to disclose a

⁴ See, e.g., Fig. 5.

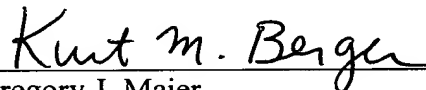
plurality of triangular areas. In addition, Applicant submits that new Claims 21-32 patentably define over the '797 and '014 patents, which rely on a desired smooth luminance profile.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 (and dependent Claims 2-6), Claim 7 (and dependent Claims 8-12), Claim 13 (and dependent Claims 14-16), Claim 17 (and dependent Claims 18-20), Claim 21 (and dependent Claims 22-26), and Claim 27 (and dependent Claims 28-32) patentably define over any proper combination of the '797 and '019 patents.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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